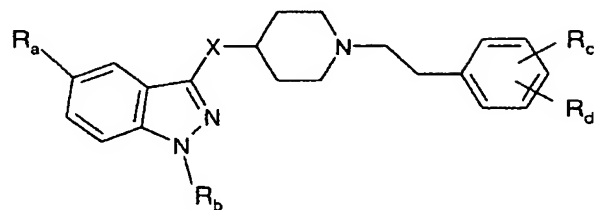


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A compound of formula:



(I)

where

X is C(O)NHCH₂, NHC(O) or NHC(O)CH₂;

R_a is H, NH₂C(O), CH₃C(O)NH, CH₃SO₂, CH₃SO₂NH, linear or branched C₁-C₃ alkyl, linear or branched C₁-C₃ alkoxy, or halogen;

R_b is H, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl; aryl-(C₁-C₃)alkyl optionally substituted with 1 or 2 halogen atoms, with a C₁-C₃ alkyl group or a C₁-C₃ alkoxy group;

and in which

a) when X is C(O)NHCH₂

R_c is hydroxy, amino, di-(C₁-C₃)alkyl-amino, tri-(C₁-C₃)alkyl-ammoniomethyl, nitro, trifluoromethyl, nitrile, CH₃C(O)NH, CH₃SO₂NH, CH₃SO₂, R'R''NSO₂, where R' and R'' are H, or a linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl,

R_d is H, hydroxy, amino, di-(C₁-C₃)alkyl-amino, tri-(C₁-C₃)alkylammoniomethyl, nitro, trifluoromethyl, nitrile, CH₃C(O)NH, CH₃SO₂NH, CH₃SO₂, R'R''NSO₂, where R' and R'' have the meanings stated above,

with the proviso, however, that when R_a and R_d are both H, and R_b is isopropyl, then

R_c is not hydroxy;

b) when X is NHC(O) or NHC(O)CH₂

R_c and R_d, which may be equal or different, are H, hydroxy, C₁-C₃ alkoxy, halogen, amino, di-(C₁-C₃)alkylamino, tri-(C₁-C₃)alkylammoniomethyl, nitro, trifluoromethyl, nitrile, CH₃C(O)NH, CH₃SO₂NH, CH₃SO₂, R'R''NSO₂, where R' and R'' have the meanings stated above, and their acid addition salts with pharmaceutically acceptable organic and inorganic acids.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The compound according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein R_a is H or C₁-C₃ alkyl.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The compound according to claim 1, wherein ~~or 2, characterized in that~~ R_b is H or C₁-C₃ alkyl.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The compound according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 3, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein R_c is H, NO₂, NH₂, OH or C₁-C₃ alkoxy.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The compound according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 4, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein R_d is H.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): An acid addition salt of a compound according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 5, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the acid is at least one selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of oxalic, maleic, methanesulphonic, paratoluenesulphonic, succinic, citric, tartaric, lactic, hydrochloric, phosphoric and sulphuric acid.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is N((1-(2-(4-nitrophenyl)ethyl)-4-piperidinyl)methyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide and the pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts thereof.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is N((1-(2-(4-nitrophenyl)ethyl)-4-piperidinyl)methyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide hydrochloride.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is N((1-(2-(4-aminophenyl)ethyl)-4-piperidinyl)methyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide and the pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts thereof.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is N((1-(2-(4-aminophenyl)ethyl)-4-piperidinyl)methyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide dihydrochloride.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is N((1-(2-(4-nitrophenyl)ethyl)-4-piperidinyl)methyl)-1-(1-methylethyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide and the pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts thereof.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is N((1-(2-(4-nitrophenyl)ethyl)-4-piperidinyl)methyl)-1-(1-methylethyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide oxalate.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is N((1-(2-(4-aminophenyl)ethyl)-4-piperidinyl)methyl)-1-(1-methylethyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide and the pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts thereof.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is N((1-(2-(4-aminophenyl)ethyl)-4-piperidinyl)methyl)-1-(1-methylethyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide dihydrochloride.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is N-(1-methyl-1H-indazol-3-yl)-1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidine-4-carboxamide and the pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts thereof.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is N-(1-methyl-1H-indazol-3-yl)-1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidine-4-carboxamide hydrochloride.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is N-(1-methyl-1H-indazol-3-yl)-1-(2-(4-methoxyphenyl)ethyl)piperidine-4-carboxamide and the pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts thereof.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is N-(1-methyl-1H-indazol-3-yl)-1-(2-(4-methoxyphenyl)ethyl)piperidine-4-carboxamide hydrochloride.

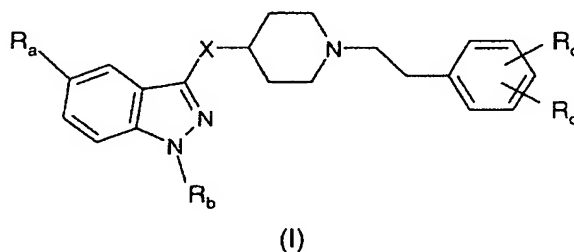
Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is N-(1-methyl-1H-indazol-3-yl)-1-(2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl)piperidine-4-carboxamide and the pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts thereof.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is N-(1-methyl-1H-indazol-3-yl)-1-(2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl)piperidine-4-carboxamide hydrochloride.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is N((1-(2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl)-4-piperidinyl)methyl)-5-methyl-1-(1-methylethyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide and the pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts thereof.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is N((1-(2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl)-4-piperidinyl)methyl)-5-methyl-1-(1-methylethyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide hydrochloride.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): A method for preparing a compound of formula (I)



and its acid addition salts with pharmaceutically acceptable organic or inorganic acids,

where

X is C(O)NHCH₂;

R_a is H, NH₂C(O), CH₃C(O)NH, CH₃SO₂, CH₃SO₂NH, linear or branched C₁-C₃ alkyl, linear or branched C₁-C₃ alkoxy, or halogen;

R_b is H, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl; aryl-(C₁-C₃)alkyl optionally substituted with 1 or 2 halogen atoms, with a C₁-C₃ alkyl group or a C₁-C₃ alkoxy group;

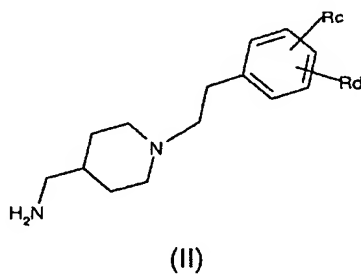
R_c is hydroxy, amino, di-(C₁-C₃)alkyl-amino, tri-(C₁-C₃)alkylammoniomethyl, nitro, trifluoromethyl, nitrile, CH₃C(O)NH, CH₃SO₂NH, CH₃SO₂, R'R''NSO₂, where R' and R'' are H, or a linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl ,

R_d is H, hydroxy, amino, di-(C₁-C₃)alkyl-amino, tri-(C₁-C₃)alkylammoniomethyl, nitro, trifluoromethyl, nitrile, CH₃C(O)NH, CH₃SO₂NH, CH₃SO₂, R'R''NSO₂, where R' and R'' have the meanings stated above,

with the proviso, however, that when R_a and R_d are both H, and R_b is isopropyl, then R_c is not hydroxy;

~~characterized in that it~~ wherein the method comprises the following stages:

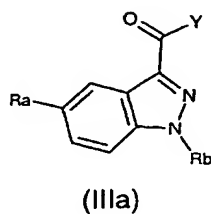
a) reaction of an amine of formula (II)



where

R_c and R_d have the same meanings as stated above or, when R_c or R_d is an amino or alcoholic group, R_c and R_d may be an amino or alcoholic group protected by a conventional protective group,

with a derivative of an indazole-carboxylic acid of formula (IIIa)

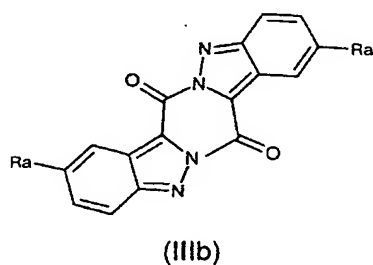


where

R_a and R_b have the meanings stated above, and

Y is a Cl or Br atom, or a group OR or OC(O)R, where R is a linear or branched alkyl having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

or with a derivative of an indazole-carboxylic acid of formula (IIIb)

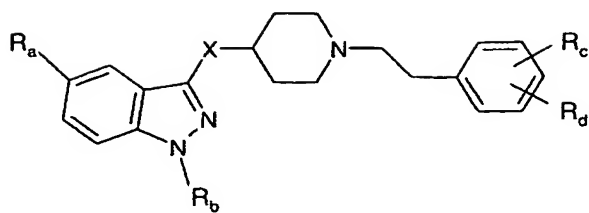


where

R_a has the meanings stated above,

- b) cleavage of any possible protective group of the aforesaid amino or alcoholic group, and
- c) optional formation of an acid addition salt of the indazolamide of formula (I) with a pharmaceutically acceptable organic or inorganic acid.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): A method of preparation a compound of formula (I)



(I)

and the pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts thereof with organic or inorganic acids,

where

X is NHC(O) or NHC(O)CH_2 ;

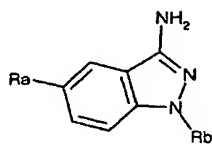
R_a is H, $\text{NH}_2\text{C(O)}$, $\text{CH}_3\text{C(O)NH}$, CH_3SO_2 , $\text{CH}_3\text{SO}_2\text{NH}$, linear or branched $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_3$ alkyl, linear or branched $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_3$ alkoxy, or halogen;

R_b is H, linear or branched $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ alkyl; aryl- $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_3)$ alkyl optionally substituted with 1 or 2 halogen atoms, with a $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_3$ alkyl group or a $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_3$ alkoxy group;

R_c and R_d , which may be equal or different, are H, hydroxy, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_3$ alkoxy, halogen, amino, di- $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_3)$ alkylamino, tri- $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_3)$ alkylammoniomethyl, nitro, trifluoromethyl, nitrile, $\text{CH}_3\text{C(O)NH}$, $\text{CH}_3\text{SO}_2\text{NH}$, CH_3SO_2 , $\text{R}'\text{R}''\text{NSO}_2$, where R' and R'' are H, or linear or branched $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ alkyl,

~~characterized in that it~~ wherein the method comprises the following stages:

a') reaction of an amine of formula (IV)

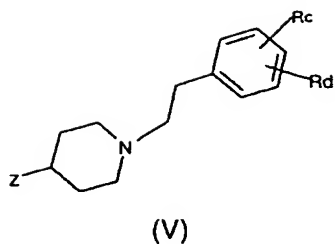


(IV)

where

R_a and R_b have the meanings stated above,

is condensed with a derivative of a carboxylic acid of formula (V)



where

R_c and R_d have the same meanings as stated above or, when R_c or R_d is an amino or alcoholic group, R_c and R_d may be an amino or alcoholic group protected by a protective group of conventional type, and

Z is a group $C(O)Y$ or $CH_2C(O)Y$ in which Y is a Cl or Br atom, or an OR or $OC(O)R$ group, where R is a linear or branched alkyl having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

- b') cleavage of any possible protective group of the aforesaid amino or alcoholic group, and
- c') optional formation of a salt of acid addition of the indazolamide of formula (I) with a pharmaceutically acceptable organic or inorganic acid.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to claim 23, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein stage (a) is carried out by reacting a compound of formula (II) with a compound of formula (IIIa) in which Y is chlorine, or with a compound of formula (IIIb) in the presence of a suitable diluent and at a temperature of from 0 to 140°C for a time of from 0.5 to 20 hours.

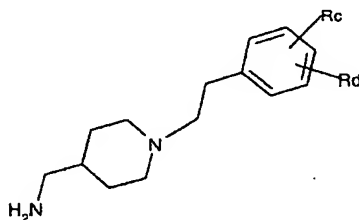
Claim 26 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to claim 24, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein stage (a') is carried out by reacting a compound of formula (IV) with a compound of formula (V) in which Y is chlorine in the presence of a suitable diluent and at a temperature of from 0 to 140°C for a time of from 0.5 to 20 hours.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]] The method according to claim 25, wherein or 26, characterized in that~~ the reaction temperature is of from 15 to 40°C.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]] The method according to claim 25, wherein or 26, characterized in that~~ the reaction time is of from 1 to 18 hours.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]] The method according to any one of the claims from 25 to 28, characterized in that~~ claim 25, wherein the diluent is ~~an~~ at least one aprotic diluent selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of toluene, dimethylformamide and dimethylsulphoxide.

Claim 30 (Original): An intermediate of formula (II)

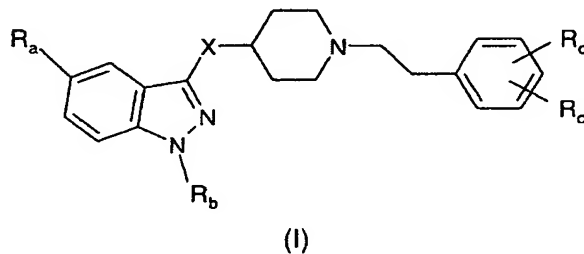


(II)

where

- R_c is hydroxy, amino, di-(C₁-C₃)alkyl-amino, tri-(C₁-C₃)alkyl-ammoniomethyl, nitro, trifluoromethyl, nitrile, $\text{CH}_3\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NH}$, $\text{CH}_3\text{SO}_2\text{NH}$, CH_3SO_2 , $\text{R}'\text{R}''\text{NSO}_2$, where R' and R'' are H, or linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl,
- R_d is H, hydroxy, amino, di-(C₁-C₃)alkyl-amino, tri-(C₁-C₃)alkylammoniomethyl, nitro, trifluoromethyl, nitrile, $\text{CH}_3\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NH}$, $\text{CH}_3\text{SO}_2\text{NH}$, CH_3SO_2 , $\text{R}'\text{R}''\text{NSO}_2$, where R' and R'' have the meanings stated above.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): A pharmaceutical composition ~~containing~~
comprising an effective amount of a compound of formula (I):



where

X is C(O)NHCH₂, NHC(O) or NHC(O)CH₂;

R_a is H, NH₂C(O), CH₃C(O)NH, CH₃SO₂, CH₃SO₂NH, linear or branched C₁-C₃ alkyl, linear or branched C₁-C₃ alkoxy, or halogen;

R_b is H, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl; aryl-(C₁-C₃)alkyl optionally substituted with 1 or 2 halogen atoms, with a C₁-C₃ alkyl group or a C₁-C₃ alkoxy group;

and in which

a) when X is C(O)NHCH₂

R_c is hydroxy, amino, di-(C₁-C₃)alkyl-amino, tri-(C₁-C₃)alkylammoniomethyl, nitro, trifluoromethyl, nitrile, CH₃C(O)NH, CH₃SO₂NH, CH₃SO₂, R'R''NSO₂, where R' and R'' are H, or a linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl ,

R_d is H, hydroxy, amino, di-(C₁-C₃)alkyl-amino, tri-(C₁-C₃)alkylammoniomethyl, nitro, trifluoromethyl, nitrile, CH₃C(O)NH, CH₃SO₂NH, CH₃SO₂, R'R''NSO₂, where R' and R'' have the meanings stated above,

with the proviso, however, that when R_a and R_d are both H, and R_b is isopropyl, then R_c is not hydroxy;

b) when X is NHC(O) or NHC(O)CH₂

R_c and R_d , which may be equal or different, are H, hydroxy, C_1 - C_3 alkoxy, halogen, amino, di- $(C_1$ - $C_3)$ alkylamino, tri- $(C_1$ - $C_3)$ alkylammoniomethyl, nitro, trifluoromethyl, nitrile, $CH_3C(O)NH$, CH_3SO_2NH , CH_3SO_2 , $R'R''NSO_2$, where R' and R'' have the meanings stated above, or of a pharmaceutically acceptable addition salt thereof with an organic or inorganic acid, and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable inert ingredient.

Claim 32 (Canceled).

Claim 33 (New): The method according to claim 26, wherein the reaction temperature is of from 15 to 40°C.

Claim 34 (New): The method according to claim 26, wherein the reaction time is of from 1 to 18 hours.

Claim 35 (New): The method according to claim 26, wherein the diluent is at least one aprotic diluent selected from the group consisting of toluene, dimethylformamide and dimethylsulphoxide.